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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5450

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Tom and Keiser)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to students with disabilities; adding a new section  
2 to chapter 28A.155 RCW; creating new sections; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds:

6 (1) There are students with disabilities throughout the state of  
7 Washington who have attended four years of high school, but whose  
8 individualized education programs prescribe the continuation of special  
9 education and related services beyond the fourth year of high school;

10 (2) Through their participation in the public schools and the  
11 community, students with disabilities have frequently become identified  
12 with and connected to a class of typically developing, age-appropriate  
13 peers who will graduate in four years and participate in a high school  
14 graduation ceremony;

15 (3) A high school graduation ceremony is an important rite of  
16 passage for students regardless of their abilities or limitations; and

17 (4) There is significant value in recognizing students' attendance  
18 and accomplishments in their individualized education programs and in  
19 allowing students with disabilities to participate in high school

1 graduation ceremonies and activities with their age-appropriate peers  
2 without the forfeiture of their continuing special education and  
3 related services.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning July 1, 2007, each school district that operates a  
7 high school shall establish a policy and procedures that permit any  
8 student who is receiving special education or related services under an  
9 individualized education program pursuant to state and federal law and  
10 who will continue to receive such services between the ages of eighteen  
11 and twenty-one to participate in the graduation ceremony and activities  
12 after four years of high school attendance with his or her age-  
13 appropriate peers and receive a certificate of attendance.

14 (2) Participation in a graduation ceremony and receipt of a  
15 certificate of attendance under this section does not preclude a  
16 student from continuing to receive special education and related  
17 services under an individualized education program beyond the  
18 graduation ceremony.

19 (3) A student's participation in a graduation ceremony and receipt  
20 of a certificate of attendance under this section shall not be  
21 construed as the student's receipt of either:

22 (a) A high school diploma pursuant to RCW 28A.230.120; or

23 (b) A certificate of individual achievement pursuant to RCW  
24 28A.155.045.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as Kevin's  
26 law.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
29 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
30 immediately.

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